

Panther Walks Out At Inquest

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CHICAGO, Jan. 6 —A youth wounded and arrested in a police raid in which two Black Panther Party leaders were slain walked out of a coroner's inquest today after refusing to answer questions.

The witness, Ronald Satchel, 19, did not take the Fifth Amendment but responded each time a question was put to him: "I don't have an answer."

The walkout came minutes after a heated exchange between Satchel's attorney, Kermit B. Coleman, and Martin S. Gerber, president officer at the inquest into the Panther deaths.

Gerber acknowledged that Satchel could not be forced to testify but insisted that the record show that the reason he would not testify was because the answers might tend to incriminate him.

Coleman, however, would not concede the point that Satchel was hiding behind the Fifth Amendment, but said he had not had proper time to counsel the witness before his appearance.

Satchel is awaiting trial on one charge of attempted murder and two charges of aggravated battery stemming from the incident that left Freddie Hampton, chairman of the Panthers, in Illinois, and Mark Clark, downstate Panther leader dead.

Police Met by Gunfire

Earlier, detective Elwood Egan told the coroner's jury that the leader of the State's Attorney's police raiding party told him minutes after the raid that police were "met by gunfire from the inside" when they sought to search the apartment for weapons.

The inquest opened amid security precautions described as the tightest in recent years. Unauthorized persons were barred from the floor in the Criminal Courts building where the hearing took place. Sheriff's police and deputy sheriffs—who totaled 50 or more—searched all persons

admitted to the inquest. Television cameras, tape recorders and photography were prohibited.

Possible witnesses were excluded from the hearing room until they were called to testify. They included 11 State's Attorney's policemen who took part in the raid in which the two Black Panther leaders were killed and an arsenal of weapons and ammunition was seized.

Tells of Phone Call

Egan, attached to the Maxwell Street police station, testified he went to the apartment at 5:10 a.m. on Dec. 4 to answer a call that a policeman had been shot. He said Sgt. Dan Groth, the State's Attorney's policeman who led the raid, told him the police went to the apartment to serve a warrant to search for guns and ammunition.

"After knocking on the door," Egan said Groth told him, "policemen were met by gunfire from inside . . . and a gun battle ensued."

Gerber rejected a proposal that the blue-ribbon jury be taken to inspect the blood-spattered apartment before listening to eyewitness testimony. He ruled that the jurors would make the inspection after the eyewitness testimony but before testimony concerning ballistics and physical evidence.